

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 11162 310750Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01
AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-08 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00
PM-05 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 OIC-02 PA-01
PRS-01 /125 W
-----125367 310801Z /13

P R 310630Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 934
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
USLO PEKING

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FROM USDEL

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SENV, UN, OCON
SUBJECT: UN CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION: SECOND DAY (AUGUST 30)

REF: NAIROBI 11092

SUMMARY: ADDITIONAL CONTROVERSIAL MATTERS (REFTEL) WERE
INTRODUCED ON SECOND DAY. SPEAKERS INCLUDED OAU,
CHINA, ALGERIA, SOME SAHELIAN COUNTRIES, AUSTRALIA AND ISRAEL.
US STATEMENT WAS DELIVERED MID-MORNING BY CHIEF OF DELEGATION
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JOSEPH (FULL TEXT SEPTTEL). MOST COUNTRY STATEMENTS OFFERED
SERIOUS COMMENTARY ON DESERTIFICATION. IN CONCURRENT SESSION,
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BEGAN WORK ON DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION.

1. OAU STATEMENT (DELIVERED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL
DJOUDDI) INTRODUCED AFRICAN PROPOSAL TO BAN CHEMICAL AND
BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS FROM AFRICA. CONTEXT IN WHICH PROPOSAL

INTRODUCED WAS HIGHLY RHETORICAL, WITH REFERENCES TO ALLEGED USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS BY FRENCH DURING ALGERIAN WAR, BY PORTUGUESE IN EX-AFRICAN COLONIES, IN VIETNAM, AND CURRENTLY BY "SMITH AND VORSTER", RESULTING IN "CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY" AND "DESTRUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT". OAU SPEAKER ALSO INTRODUCED MIDDLE EAST ISSUE WITH COMPLAINT THAT ISRAELI STUDY "THE NEGEV: A DESERT RECLAIMED", WHICH WAS DISTRIBUTED AS CONFERENCE DOCUMENT, WAS ACTUALLY A POLITICAL STATEMENT REFLECTING EXPANSIONIST AIMS OF BEGINNING GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN. FOLLOWING OAU STATEMENT, CONFERENCE SECRETARY GENERAL TOLBA, REPLYING FOR SECRETARIAT, EMPHASIZED THAT CASE STUDIES ON DESERTIFICATION CONTRIBUTED BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED VIEWS OF CONTRIBUTOR GOVERNMENTS ONLY, FOR WHICH UNITED NATIONS HAD NO PART NO RESPONSIBILITY.

2. REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA (PRC) POINTED TO "POLICY OF RELYING ON AND MOBILIZING THE MASSES AND ORGANIZING MASS MOVEMENTS" AS PROPER APPROACH, BASED ON CHINESE EXPERIENCE, TO DESERTIFICATION. HE ENDORSED AFRICAN INITIATIVE ON CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE, CITING CHINESE OPPOSITION TO THE "SUPER POWERLY" DECEPTIVE TACTICS OF TALKING PROFUSELY ABOUT DISARMAMENT" AND OFFERING ONLY "GIMMICKS". HE ALSO ACCUSED TWO SUPER POWERS OF "TRYING DESPERATELY TO MAINTAIN THE OLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND OPPOSING THE CREATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER." THERE WERE POSITIVE ELEMENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN CHINESE PRESENTATION, HOWEVER, INCLUDING CITATION OF CHINA'S EXPERIENCE IN BOGI DESERT, QUALIFIED ENDORSEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND EVEN FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE "UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES".

3. ALGERIAN STATEMENT FOCUSED EXCLUSIVELY ON RELEVANT DOMESTIC EXPERIENCE, PARTICULARLY CONTROL OF NORTHERN EXTREMITIES OF SAHARA AND SAHARAN GREENBELT PROJECT. SAHELIAN COUNTRIES (SENEGAL, NIGER, CHAD, CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE) DISCUSSED VARIOUS ASPECTS OF SAHEL EXPERIENCE AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CONFERENCE WOULD LEAD TO PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION.

4. AUSTRALIA STRONGLY ENDORSED CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNEP IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN OF ACTION. DEFINING PROBLEM OF DESERTIFICATION AS ONE OF "UNDERSTANDING INHERENT CAPABILITIES OF ARID AND SEMI-ARID ENVIRONMENT" I.E., AN "ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM IN THE FULLEST SENSE", AUSTRALIAN DELEGATE CONCLUDED IT CAN BE "DEALT WITH BEST" BY UNEP.

5. ISRAELI STATEMENT WAS LOW-KEY, SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATION WHICH CONCLUDED WITH PROMISE OF CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO

SHARE ISRAELI EXPERIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND DENIAL THAT
STUDY ON NEGEV CITED EARLIER IN OAU STATEMENT HAD ANY
POLITICAL OBJECTIVE WHATSOEVER. ARAB, EAST EUROPEAN AND
MOST AFRICAN DELEGATIONS WALKED OUT AS CHIEF OF ISRAELI
DELEGATION MOUNTED ROSTRUM. NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS WERE
GHANA, ZAIRE, SENEGAL, UPPER VOLTA, LESOTHO AND BOTSWANA.

6. COMMENT: QUIET AND ORDERLY WALK-OUT WAS MINIMAL ACT
AGAINST ISRAEL THAT WE COULD HAVE EXPECTED. THERE WAS
NO CHALLENGE TO ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO SPEAK.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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